

Get ready for the Christmas Bird Count



Pilchuck Audubon Society invites all interested citizen scientists to help gather vital data during this year's Christmas Bird Counts. The north county count, led by Scott Atkinson, is scheduled for December 18. The south county count, led by Jan van Niel, is scheduled for December 30. For more information, please contact Scott at scottratkinson@hotmail.com or Jan at svjanniel@comcast.net or 425.778.7568.

It takes a dedicated birder to leave the warmth of a holiday home to brave winter weather for the Christmas Bird Count. But, each year, thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in this traditional birding adventure. Families, students, birders and scientists – armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists – often begin counting before dawn. These citizen scientists are fueled by the desire to make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature.

Each volunteer who braves the elements to participate in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in the Christmas Bird Count – the longest-running wildlife census – to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. This year's count will help scientists understand the impact of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on vulnerable species.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition – and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

The data collected by observers over the past century has allowed researchers, conservation biologists and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The long-term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It helps form strategies to protect birds and their habitat – and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people, as well. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

(See "CBC" on page 5)

November program meeting

Friday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

For more information, call 425.252.0926

**Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the most up-to-date information.**

Attn: former Verizon e-mail customers

Has your e-mail address changed with the sale of Verizon to Frontier Communications? If so, please send your new e-mail address to kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org so we can ensure you continue to receive important information from Pilchuck Audubon.

Online survey participants needed

Each year, thousands of birds die due to various forms of human technology and activity. Researchers at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, are interested in how people's perceptions of the risks posed by nuclear power may also contribute to their perceptions of hazards to birds.

If you're interested, you can find the survey at www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BDFEUJWXT.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Recently, I picked up a copy of *Archaeology* magazine in a doctor's waiting room. Flipping through its pages, I came across a world round-up on recent archaeological discoveries and findings. What caught my

eye was a paragraph on the Nazca civilization of Peru. You may be familiar with Nazca Lines, a series of ancient geoglyphs located in Nazca Desert.

Scholars believe the Nazca Lines were created by the Nazca people between 400 and 650 AD. The hundreds of individual figures range in complexity from simple lines to stylized hummingbirds, spiders, monkeys, fish, sharks, llamas and lizards.

The lines are shallow designs made in the ground by removing the ubiquitous reddish pebbles and uncovering the whitish ground beneath. The largest figures are more than 660 feet across and their shapes can only be discerned from an airplane, leading some "experts" to claim the Nazca Lines are the work of aliens from outer space and are giant astronomical calendars.

Perhaps a little more plausible explanation is the designs have religious significance connected to rituals to summon water, which supports the point being made in *Archaeology* magazine. Analysis of pollen, floral remains and sediments suggests the Nazca civilization may have committed ecocide. The study found that plant life in the desert the Nazca



Nazca Lines

occupied changed over time, from trees to maize to weeds. Among other things, the trees helped mitigate flood damage and replenish aquifers. Like the Mayans of Central America and the Anazi in the southwest, deforestation ultimately led to the collapse of their culture.

Year after year, as the evidence continues to mount that deforestation and immoderate use of water have resulted in the collapse of cultures, what lessons have we learned and put to use? None. The single overriding lesson of history is that we learn nothing from history. Until the recent recession, the population of Las Vegas continued to grow almost exponentially year after year. The Colorado River is the source of water for Las Vegas. Water levels at Lake Mead, which is fed by the river,

dropped by half in less than 10 years. Golf courses around Palm Springs, California, use enough water to create their own microclimate. Farmers in Arizona raise thirsty crops like cotton, rice and pecans in the desert.

As I write this, on a rainy Seattle day, where there is no dearth of water, what does this have to do with us? A time will come – likely not in our lifetime – when, as ecologist Garret Hardin wrote, there are problems that can be solved only by "a change in human values or ideas of mortality" in situations where rational pursuit of individual self-interest leads to collective ruin." Unfortunately, if history is any guide, that ain't gonna happen.

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon *Profile*, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members

in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter submissions
Submit articles to annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The *Profile* is available at www.pilchuckaudubon.org



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David Gladstone	Board Consultant	

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Trip calendar

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

November 2

Fir Island

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect almost anything: Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

November 9 Birch Bay/Semiahmoo/Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Saw lots of plovers and turnstones last October. Wilma will provide lunch at her beach cabin.

Leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028
Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Nov. 16

Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, Cranberry Lake

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Oystercatchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

November 23

Reifel Bird Sanctuary, BC

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island at the mouth of the Fraser River. Expect waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license (the birth certificate and regular driver's license combination is no longer valid). Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

November 30

North Everett to south Marysville

Meet at 8 a.m. at Legion Park off Marine View Drive, Everett. Explore the north Everett waterfront and the Snohomish River Estuary, including the Marysville sewage facility. View Osprey, eagles, hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.

Dreams really do come true!

In late September, the final migrating Vaux Swifts entered the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. After that, Cindy Easterson and other counters showed up for their shifts, but did not find any birds to count. The cameras installed in the chimney did not record any, either. This was quite different from last year when the counters were still counting small numbers of migrating swifts until the middle of October.

On October 1, Larry Schwitters and the Lowe's Heroes installed the kiosk in front of the school. Previously, Lowe's in Monroe delivered the kiosk materials to the woodshop at the correctional facility, where the kiosk was built. What an exciting time! Everything had finally come together. Next was the installation of the carefully designed panels a few days later.

On October 4, Principal Robin Fitch of Frank Wagner Elementary sent an e-mail saying: "The kiosk is wonderful. Larry spent at least two full days digging, sawing, positioning and interacting with passers-by. Many thanks to all for this great addition to the evolving history of Frank Wagner Elementary School. The kiosk is a real special piece and I know it will be part of our school culture for years to come."

Soon, the kiosk will be finalized with the addition of logos from all our partners, an explanation in Spanish and installation of the cement base. When you are in Monroe, be sure to check it out.

But, maybe the most exciting aspect of the fall migration was the imagery captured by the two new cameras in the chim-

ney. These motion-activated cameras managed to film hours of activity in the chimney.



A Cooper's Hawk eyes a Vaux's Swift from its perch on the Frank Wagner Elementary chimney.

The video is a first. No other video of swifts in a chimney exists. During the last couple of weeks of the migration, visitors to the site were able to observe what was happening in the chimney from a monitor in one of the front windows of the school.

Curt Young has been key to the whole technical process. We knew he was a really good "tech guy," but he made all this technical stuff real for the rest of us. Now Larry and Curt can spend the winter analyzing the tapes. Already, they have seen predator behavior that was totally unknown before. Updates to follow.

Thanks to Marina Skumanich and Sue Libow, the new web site www.monroeswifts.org is a reality. Visit the web site to see imagery from the chimney cams. The site will continue to be a great addition to the Swift program.

Paulette Hunter, a member of the steering committee from Seattle Audubon, has worked with the Monroe School District. She and a group of school staffers developed curriculum elements related to the swifts that can be used by all the teachers at all the grade levels in the school.

It was a busy and active fall in Monroe. Thanks to everyone – especially to Larry Schwitters who installed the cameras, climbed the ladder, made the kiosk a reality, tracked the swifts up and down the west coast and back and formed

(See "Swifts" on page 5)

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Killer Whale Tales

Saturday, November 6 NW Stream Center, Everett

See our southern resident orca whales "swimming" on the walls at the Northwest Stream Center. Thanks to amazing video photography by Jeff Hogan from Killer Whale Tales (www.killerwhaletales.org), you can learn how to identify each of the 86 members of the southern resident pods, who call the Salish Sea their home.

Thanks to a video-cam attachment, you will see a "whale's-eye view" of swimming in a killer whale pod (never seen on TV). "Jeff Hogan's entertaining presentation is not only very educational, but fun for young and old," says Adopt-a-Stream Foundation's Tom Murdoch. "He is not only a great teacher and photographer, but a trained actor to boot."

The presentation runs from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, at the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, Everett.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase required. For more info, call 425.316.8592 or visit www.streamkeeper.org.

Bird behavior course

Beginning December 8

Online

Learn how to observe and interpret bird behavior and communication with an online course called *Investigating behavior: courtship and rivalry in birds*. The course is offered through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The next session begins on December 8.

A basic principle of bird behavior as it relates to survival and reproduction is explored each week using multimedia and interactive activities, guided by an instructor.

To enroll, visit www.ecornell.com/birds, where there's a video describing the course content. The cost is \$295, plus a \$30 registration fee. Call toll-free to sign up: 866.326.7635.

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21

The 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and open to birders of all ages and skill levels. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org.

The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada.

The 2010 GBBC was a record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun.

"I enjoy being outdoors and birding is a source of relaxation and stress relief!" wrote one participant. "Looking and listening for birds forces me to focus on the environment around me at a higher level of intensity, and notice things I might otherwise miss."

From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

Environmental coalition legislative workshop January 8

Gwinn Commons at SPU

Mark your calendars for this important workshop, scheduled for 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Gwinn Commons at Seattle Pacific University. More information to come in future issues of the *Profile*.

Environmental priorities coalition lobby day February 15

Olympia

Plan to attend this year's environmental lobby day from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, in Olympia. And, don't forget the reception afterwards. This year will be special, as we'll celebrate People for Puget Sound's 20th anniversary!

More information to come in future issues of the *Profile*.

Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival February 26-27, 2011 Stanwood, Washington

The geese are heading back to the Stillaguamish Valley, and plans are well under way for the 2011 Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 26-27, 2011.

Watch the official festival web site – www.snowgoosefest.org – and the *Profile* for more information as field trips and presentations are firmed up in the coming months.

Pilchuck Audubon sponsors the event, so we hope lots of members and friends will join us in Stanwood, as well as volunteer to help out. We'll host a table at festival headquarters and provide information to festival goers. There is always plenty to do and see at this festival.

Please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org if you can help. We will need at least three field trip leaders, as well as 10-12 volunteers for the PAS table.

Highlights from the 2010 GBBC

- A roost of nearly 1.5 million American Robins was reported in St. Petersburg, Florida. Will they be back in 2011?
- The invasive Eurasian Collared-Dove keeps expanding its range. It was reported in 39 states and provinces during the 2010 GBBC. Where will this hardy dove show up next?
- Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers during the last count, possibly because of warmer temperatures and earlier migration. Will that pattern hold true again for GBBC 2011?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for mid-February because it offers a good picture of the birds typically found throughout the winter months. It also coincides with migration for some species, such as the Sandhill Crane. That window of transition affords an opportunity to detect changes in timing for northward migration.

On the www.birdcount.org web site, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds

(See "GBBC" on page 5)

New bird hikers add much to September hike

By Jonathan Blubaugh

We welcomed two new Weekend Bird Hikers on the September 19 hike to Lord Hill Regional Park in Snohomish. One of our new hikers is an ecologist. He impressed us by identifying many plants by their specific Latin names.

We were particularly interested to learn about the different fern species in our area, including Deer Fern, Maidenhair Fern, Western Sword Fern, Lady Fern, Bracken Fern and Dry Oak Fern. Two other plants that were new to me were the Mexican Hedge Nettle (related to lamb's ear) and Self-heal (prunella).

Lord Hill Regional is a county park on a nice country road between Monroe and Snohomish. You might have driven by it on SR 522 and not even known it.

The hill is near the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers, just northwest of SR 522's high bridge. Access, however, is on the other side. The trails are well marked and a map is available on the county web site.

CBC ...

(continued from page 1)

In the 1980s, Christmas Bird Count data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, and then conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. More recently, in 2009, the information collected was instrumental in Audubon's *Birds and Climate Change* analysis, which documented range shifts of bird species over time. In 2007, the CBC data was instrumental in the development of two Audubon *State of the Birds* reports: *Common Birds in Decline*, which, revealed some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past 40 years, and *WatchList 2007*, which identified 178 rarer species in peril in the continental US and 39 in Hawaii. These three reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them.

Watch for more information about our local Christmas Bird Count activities in future issues of *The Profile*.

Swifts ...

(continued from page 3)

swift teams wherever swifts were found roosting.

Big thanks to Judy Alles, all the counters and docents, everyone involved in the development of the kiosk, the local Swift team and everyone who supports and loves the swifts.

All of these exciting things have happened thanks to the Together Green Grant PAS received. The Monroe Swifts are now on the proverbial map. The three Audubon chapters, along with Together Green and an ALEA grant, have truly made dreams a reality! We can hardly wait until next April when the swifts arrive again!

The birds we saw included a Pied-billed Grebe, five Vaux's Swifts, two Belted Kingfishers, a Northern Flicker, a Steller's Jay, a Common Raven, three Black-capped Chickadees, a

Red-breasted Nuthatch, a couple of Bewick's Wrens, an American Robin, a Song Sparrow and a couple of Dark-eyed Juncos. We also heard a number of Pacific Tree (chorus) Frogs.

Near the end of the walk, we found a newt at the edge of the trail. It's the first one I've seen since I started doing Weekend Bird Hikes. We picked it up! It responded by stretching its neck and tail, displaying bright orange under-parts. Our new ecologist friend explained this was a threat posture to warn that it was toxic: don't eat me! So, we didn't.



Rough-skinned Newt, by Matt Knoth

Remember: reservations aren't required for Weekend Bird Hikes. Just show up, I'll be there. Naturally, advanced notice is welcomed (even encouraged). That way, we know who to look for and won't leave without you!

PAS board meetings are open to all

The Pilchuck Audubon Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett), beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the chapter's goals and priorities. For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

GBBC ...

(continued from page 4)

and special materials for educators.

GBBC participant surveys have shown that people really enjoy exploring the data and say they learn more about their local birds. "I looked at data with my 9-year-old son to help him learn about birds in our area," wrote one parent. "We talked about migration, bird flyways and compared bird counts for our area (coastal South Carolina) with where his cousins live (Wisconsin and Alabama). We found out our area has a much greater variety of birds in February than either of the other two."

Participants may enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC web site photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs and many other great birding products.

For more info about the GBBC, visit www.birdcount.org.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

I recently hosted a table at the annual Renewable Living Fair in Everett. Unfortunately, this year's event wasn't as well attended as last year's, but there were remarkable people sharing information about how to live more sustainably.

So, what does "living sustainably" mean? According to Wikipedia, sustainable living "is a lifestyle that attempts to reduce an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resources and his/her own resources. Practitioners of sustainable living often attempt to reduce their carbon footprint by altering methods of transportation, energy consumption and diet.

"Proponents of sustainable living aim to conduct their lives in manners that are consistent with sustainability, in natural balance and respectful of humanity's symbiotic relationship with the Earth's natural ecology and cycles. The practice and general philosophy of ecological living is highly interrelated with the overall principles of sustainable development.

"Lester R. Brown, a prominent environmentalist and founder of the Worldwatch Institute and Earth Policy Institute, describes sustainable living in the 21st century as 'shifting to a renewable energy-based, reuse/recycle economy with a diversified transport system.' "

With that in mind, I want to highlight people in Snohomish County who are working to make their (and our) lives more sustainable.

Carlo Voli from Edmonds was recently featured in the local newspapers. I have talked with Carlo about his choices to live more sustainably and with a small carbon footprint. He is the organizer of a yearly cleanup in his neighborhood, has transformed his front yard into a communal garden space for himself and his neighbors, he rides his bike and takes the bus almost exclusively (to work, too, from Edmonds to Woodinville).

When it's impossible to do that, he uses his biodiesel-fueled compact car. He's given up his clothes dryer and does not use disposable cups, napkins or food containers. He carries his own reusable plates, cups and cloth napkins. Plus, he has on hand reusable food containers for his take-home tidbits.

Carlo uses renewable energy as much as possible – he has solar panels, a wind turbine and a solar oven. Rainwater, harvested from the rooftop, is used to operate his dual flush toilets and water his garden.

Lya Badgley, from Snohomish, is a former Snohomish City Council member. She's embarked on a new venture, selling Neal's Yard Remedies (NYR Organic) skin care. She believes in this product and the need for women, men and even children to eliminate toxics in their lives, especially what they put on their skin. NYR Organic has been offering healthy and effective certified organic skincare alternatives for almost 30 years.

NYR Organic is a family business and a family passion. They've stayed a small, independent company to remain true to the vision of an accessible and sustainable lifestyle for everyone. Believing that the social and environmental cost of ingredients is more important than price, NYR's owners are proud to run a business that takes care of this generation and the next. They follow the "precautionary principle," and are sure to be fully aware of the effects of any ingredients before they are allowed into their products. Lya supports the work I do, as well, and has graciously offered to work with me on a

fundraiser to support the Smart Growth program. She is inviting folks to come to her home from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, November 8, to sample her products. She'll donate 100 percent of every sale to the Smart Growth program. With the holidays coming up, you just might want to purchase something for your loved ones! Please RSVP to me if you would like to attend at kristin@futurewise.org.

Marilene and Brian Richardson, of Monroe, are also walking the walk – and teaching others to, as well. She owns SongCroft Garden Designs, lives on a farm outside Monroe and teaches classes on sustainable farming. They are building a modest-sized, passive-solar home with solar-assist hot-water heating, super-insulation and a composting toilet, as well as other systems focused on energy efficiency. They've also converted three diesel vehicles to run on waste vegetable oil.

They use their home and land as practical examples for community education – to offer classes and workshops, as well as to provide a community meeting space. They teach a two-year course which covers, among many things, seed starting and saving, permaculture, soil science and amending soil, sheet-mulching, small livestock rearing, planting, greenhousing, composting, water saving, edible hedges, medicinal herb gardens and year-round gardening. They also put out a quarterly newsletter. For more information and to receive the newsletter, visit their website at www.songcroft.com.

Karen Erickson of Everett is a tireless advocate and involved in many sustainable practices and events. Karen is also the organizer of the Snohomish Farmers Market. Last year, at the Holiday Bazaar in Snohomish, she sold grocery bags and hats made from recycled plastic grocery bags!

She puts out a monthly newsletter listing a wide variety of meetings, events and links that help put people where they need to be to learn to live more sustainably. The links include categories such as Community Connections, Local Food, Farmers Market, Health, Recycle/Reuse, Transportation, Green Biz, Green Spaces, Our Waters, Blogs/Publications, Building Green and Renewable Energy.

You can join and receive the newsletter by contacting Karen at karen@livingsustainablyinsnohomish.com.

Pilchuck Audubon needs your help, too, to be sustainable! I know this has been mentioned in many of our newsletters, I want to once again reach out to our readership and ask that you help us keep you better informed. We now have a wonderful database that one of our volunteers put together for us called Salesforce. This database has the capacity to make the work we do on behalf of our membership more effective, but we need you help to keep it updated.

Please send us your most up-to-date e-mail address. Our newsletters are posted on the PAS web site (www.pilchuck-audubon.org) and we encourage folks to read it online if they can. This helps cut our costs and our waste! We need to know if you want to receive Action Alerts or other e-mails. We hope you do, as this is the fastest, most effective way to notify our membership. It just takes a moment to send an e-mail to me, kristin@futurewise.org, and I'll make sure your information gets into our database.

Birding highlights

August 26, 2010–September 25, 2010

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Ron Kraut, from Sultan, sent an e-mail report of an **Acorn Woodpecker**, a casual visitor to Washington. What a great find. Thanks, Ron!

We have had reports of **Pileated Woodpeckers** throughout the county. I see them everyday now. Also, **Dark-eyed Juncos** are on the increase with almost everyone reporting at least one.

Carol and Larry Beason had a species count of 43 again from their Lake Bosworth home. The **Muscovy Ducks** are back. They also reported 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 9 **American Goldfinches**, 9 **Barn Swallows**, 12 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 30 **Pine Siskins**, 26 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers** and a **Western Tanager**.

Annette Colombini saw 15 species in 15 minutes one day at her home in Lake Stevens. Her list included 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers** that ate an entire suet cake in 24 hours. She also reported 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** that were new to the feeders. Her species count of 19 also included 15 **American Crows**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 5 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Purple Finch**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and 4 **Steller's Jays**.

Gail Dibernardio's report from Brier also included 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers**: a male and two females. Her total species count of 23 included a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, 9 **American Goldfinches**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Killdeer**, 2 **Northern Harriers** and 12 **Cedar Waxwings**.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported 10 **American Goldfinches** for September, along with 20 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 12 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Scrub Jays** in her yard (witnessed by four people), a **Western Tanager**, 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Western Tanager** and 80–100 **European Starlings** for a total species count of 29.

Eurasian Collard Doves topped Adeline Gildow's list this month. She spotted 6 on a hillside at Juniper Beach. This



Acorn Woodpecker, by Donald Metzner



Scrub Jay, by Patty Bruno



Pileated Woodpecker, by Paul Kusmin

dove species has worked its way up from Florida. Her total species count of 28 also included 4 **American Goldfinches**, 6 **Bald Eagles** in the trees above the beach, a **Belted Kingfisher**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** overhead and 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**.

Julie O'Donald reported several warbler species along a bird friendly, man-made stream near her home in Brier. She listed 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, a **Yellow Warbler**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush** and a **White-crowned Sparrow** along the stream. Her species count of 27 also included 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 10 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, at least 30 **Red-tailed Hawks** overhead and 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**.

Another **Pileated Woodpecker** was reported in Stanwood by Mary Sinker. She also listed 39 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 17 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers** in the garden and a **Winter Wren** for a total species count of 29.

Dick Vanderhoff also reported a **Pileated Woodpecker** at his feeders in Stanwood. In addition, he saw 7 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Northern Flickers** and 3 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**. Two **Spotted Towhees** were on the ground and 15 **Tree Swallows** were overhead. His total species count of 18 also included 5 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 4 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Varied Thrush** and 4 **House Sparrows**.

My total species count of 23 included a **Cooper's Hawk** who made several visits, 50+ **Tree Swallows** and 30+ **Barn Swallows** on the wires along 100th, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 10 **American Crows** in the field, 20 **California Quail** (they even eat from the suet feeder now), a **Dark-eyed**

Junco and 3 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please e-mail me at pricemara@clearwire.net or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

Pilchuck Audubon Society
 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
 Snohomish, WA 98290

November program meeting

Friday, November 12, 7 p.m.



Everett Firefighters Hall
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 For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
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